

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for use in installing a tack strip, comprising:

5 a body comprising a longitudinal reference axis, first and second longitudinally spaced ends, and a longitudinally oriented body aperture extending along said reference axis and between said first and second ends of said body, wherein said body aperture comprises a fastener-accommodating first portion disposed toward said first end of said body;

a striker pin movable along said reference axis and relative to said body, wherein said striker pin comprises a shaft, a part of which is disposed within at least a second portion of
10 said body aperture, and a strikable impact head interconnected with said shaft and disposed beyond said body aperture; and

a tack strip track assembly disposed toward said first end of said body, and defining a tack strip accommodating guide channel therein, said track assembly comprising a spacer disposed on a first side of said guide channel, wherein said spacer is substantially immobile
15 relative to said body, wherein said spacer comprises at least one substantially planar surface that is oriented substantially parallel to said reference axis and that is interfacable with a surface from which said tack strip accommodating guide channel is to be spaced.

2. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said striker pin is disposable in at least first position and second positions, and
20 wherein said striker pin is disposed in said fastener-accommodating portion of said body aperture in only one of said first and second positions.

3. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said shaft of said striker pin comprises a shaft length measured along said reference axis of said body that is longer than a body length of said body measured along said reference axis.

4. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

5 said shaft of said striker pin comprises a substantially uniform cross-sectional dimension perpendicular to said reference axis of said body.

5. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

a shock absorbing material disposed on at least a portion of said body

6. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

10 a rubber body extension interconnected with said second end of said body, wherein said rubber body extension comprises a longitudinally oriented extension aperture extending along said reference axis in substantial alignment with said body aperture.

7. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 6, further comprising:

a washer connected with said rubber body extension, wherein said washer is disposed
15 at an end of said rubber body extension that is most remote from said second end of said body.

8. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising:

a spring disposed about said shaft of said striker pin between said washer and said impact head of said striker pin.

20 9. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 6, wherein:

said spacer comprises a first lateral extent of a first magnitude in a first direction substantially perpendicular to said reference axis of said body, wherein said rubber body

extension comprises a second lateral extent of a second magnitude in said first direction, and wherein said first magnitude is greater than said second magnitude.

10. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:
a handle that is interconnected with and that extends out from said body between said
5 first and second ends of said body.

11. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:
said handle is substantially immobile relative to said body.

12. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:
a shock absorbing material disposed about at least a portion of said handle.

10 13. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:
said shock absorbing material comprises rubber.

14. An apparatus for use in installing a tack strip, comprising:
a spacer for spacing a tack strip a substantially uniform distance from a surface;
a substantially cylindrical aperture for accommodating at least a portion of a started
first fastener associated with the tack strip, said aperture having an effective aperture
5 diameter of no more than about twice an effective fastener diameter of said first fastener; and
a striker pin for driving at least a portion of the started first fastener through the tack
strip and into a support structure, at least a portion of said striker pin being disposable within
said aperture.

15. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising:
10 a pin retainer for retaining said striker pin in association with said apparatus.

16. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 15, wherein:
said pin retainer comprises a frictional interface between said striker pin and a rubber
portion of said apparatus.

17. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising:
15 a vibration dampener disposed about at least a portion of said apparatus.

18. An apparatus for use in installing a tack strip, comprising:

a body comprising a longitudinal reference axis, first and second longitudinally spaced ends, and a longitudinally oriented body aperture extending along said reference axis and between said first and second ends of said body;

5 a striker pin movable along said reference axis and relative to said body, wherein said striker pin comprises a shaft disposable within at least a portion of said body aperture, and a strikable impact head interconnected with said shaft and disposed beyond said body aperture;

a body extension interconnected with said second end of said body, wherein said body extension comprises a longitudinally oriented extension aperture extending along said
10 reference axis in substantial alignment with said body aperture;

a washer connected with said body extension, wherein said washer is disposed at an end of said body extension that is most remote from said second end of said body, and wherein said washer comprises a washer aperture through which said reference axis extends;
and

15 a spring disposed about said shaft of said striker pin between said washer and said impact head of said striker pin.

19. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 18, wherein:

said body extension comprises a pin retainer for retaining said striker pin in association with said apparatus, wherein said pin retainer comprises a frictional interface
20 between said striker pin and a sidewall of said body extension.

20. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 18, further comprising:

a tack strip track assembly disposed toward said first end of said body, said track assembly comprising a wall spacing projection that is substantially immobile relative to said body of said apparatus.